

Message Text

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10

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FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1852

INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

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AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 881

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, CH

SUBJECT: GOVERNORS' VISIT - PROVINCIAL POLITICAL OBSERVATIONS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

REF: A) PEKING 823; B) PEKING 824; C) PEKING 827; D) PEKING 828

1) SIAN, THE FIRST STOP ON THE GOVERNORS' ITINERARY FOLLOWING PEKING, HAD BEEN SCRUBBED PRACTICALLY CLEAN OF BIG CHARACTER POSTERS. SOME TATTERED REMNANTS COULD BE SEEN AS MOTORCADE PASSED THROUGH CITY AND PRO FORMA POSTERS COULD STILL BE SEEN IN FACTORIES, BUT IT WAS CLEAR THAT DURING AN EARLIER STAGE THE CAMPAIGN HAD BEEN WIDESPREAD. WHEN ASKED ABOUT ABSENCE OF BIG CHARACTER POSTERS, PROVINCIAL REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN CHANG TZU CALIMED BIG CHARACTERS POSTERS UNNECESSARY TO CARRY ON CAMPAIGN. WHEN A VISITING NEW ZEALAND DELEGATION, IN SIAN AT SAME TIME, ASKED HIM IF CAMPAIGN WAS OVER, HE REPLIED THAT CAMPAIGN WAS STILL GOING ON BUT WAS AT A DIFFERENT STAGE. CHANG ALSO BLANDLY DENIED TO NEW ZEALANDERS ANY KNOWLEDGE OF PERSONS BEING PERSONNALLY ATTACKED.

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2) IN CONTRAST WITH SIAN, CHANGSHA WAS COVERED WITH POSTERS. ONE BATCH, OBVIOUSLY OF AN EARLIER VINTAGE, HAD LARGELY BEEN TORN DOWN OR SCRUBBED OFF, BUT IT WAS CLEAR THAT DURING EARLIER PERIOD CAMPAIGN HAD BEEN QUITE INTENSE AND INDIVIDUALS WERE UNDER ATTACK. SECOND BATCH OF POSTERS, USUALLY ON COLORED PAPER AND NEATLY DONE APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN PUT UP ONLY A FEW DAYS BEFORE DELEGATIONS ARRIVAL. THESE POSTERS, WHICH WERE SIGNED BY INDIVIDUAL UNITS, LARGELY CONSISTED OF ANODINE SLOGANS OUT OF THE PEOPLE'S DAILY. THERE WERE A NUMBER OF NEW POSTERS HAILING THE 32ND ANNIVERSARY OF MAO ADDRESS TO THE YENAN FORUM ON LITERATURE AND ART. ON ONE DRIVE THROUGH THE CITY PUBLIC NOTICES WERE OBSERVED WHICH MAY WELL HAVE BEEN ANNOUNCEMENTS OF PUNISHMENT FOR CRIMINAL OFFENDERS JUDGING FROM MANNER IN WHICH THEY WERE ORGANIZED. WE WERE TOO FAR AWAY TO READ THEM HOWEVER.

3) SHANGHAI APPEARED RELAXED WITH ONLY A FEW POSTERS IN SIDE STREETS AND INSIDE COURTYARDS AND FACTORIES. FOLLOWING DELEGATIONS'S DEPARTURE USLO ESCORT WAS ABLE TO VISIT SOME OUT OF THE WAY STREETS AND THEY WERE SIMILARLY CLEANED UP. HANGCHOW WAS DEVOID OF POSTERS ALONG THE MAIN STREETS THROUGH WHICH THE MOTORCADE PASSED. UNLIKE SIAN AND SHANGHAI THERE WAS LITTLE EVIDENCE THAT PREVIOUSLY THERE HAD BEEN A LARGE SCALE POSTER CAMPAIGN.

4) WITH EXCEPTION OF SHANGHAI REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN FENG KUO-CHU (SEPTTEL), POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS WITH PROVINCIAL REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMEN WERE MINIMAL. GOVERNOR MANDEL WAS INTERESTED IN CHINESE CRIME PROBLEMS AND PROCEDURES AND PURSUED THE QUESTION WITH A NUMBER OF PROVINCIAL FOREIGN AFFAIRS BUREAU OFFICIALS DURING THE TRIP. THE STANDARD ANSWER WAS THAT CHINA HAD PRACTICALLY NO CRIME PROBLEM AND SUCH THAT EXISTED WAS DEALT WITH THROUGH EDUCATION BY THE MASSES. IN SHANGHAI, HOWEVER, ONE OFFICIAL CONCEDED THERE WERE CRIME PROBLEMS, STATING THAT BURGLARY, ASSASSINATION (PRESUMABLY MURDER), PICK-POCKETING, AND PROSTITUTION WERE THE FOUR MAIN DIFFICULTIES. HE SAID THAT, WHILE MANY MINOR PROBLEMS CAN BE HANDLED AT THE STREET COMMITTEE LEVEL, THERE EXISTED BOTH CRIMINAL AND CIVIL COURTS AS WELL AS JAILS FOR DEALING WITH MORE SERIOUS PROBLEMS.

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5) COMMENT: THE TOUR WAS TIGHTLY ORGANIZED WITH NO TIME FOR INDIVIDUAL WANDERING ON SIDE STREETS, AND MOTORCADES MOVED RAPIDLY THROUGH THE MAIN THROUGHFARES. IN ADDITION, THE GROUP WAS REPEATEDLY WARNED AGAINST TAKING PICTURES OF BIG CHARACTER POSTERS, INDIVIDUALS WITHOUT THEIR PERMISSION OR WHILE TRAVELLING IN CARS. ALTHOUGH WE HAD NO WAY OF KNOWING, THE NEW POSTER CAMPAIGN IN CHANGSHA MAY HAVE

BEEN MOTIVATED, AT LEAST IN PART, BY THE ARRIVAL OF THE
GOVERNORS.
BRUCE

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